



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., January 28, 2002
City Council Meeting Chambers
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL



Present: Chair McChesney, Vice-Chair Foerster; Commissioners Carpenter, Hull, Humphries, McDonald, and Sandoval.

MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the November 26, 2001 meeting was moved by Commissioner Carpenter, seconded by Commissioner Hull.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the audience may bring to the attention of the commission any item that is not on the agenda. Speakers are given up to three (3) minutes. State law prohibits the Commission from acting on items that do not appear on the agenda.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Chairperson's report: Chair McChesney discussed the recent Joint Study Session with Council, discussed next steps for following through on Council's directions, and the planned Community meeting with downtown commercial building owners.
2. Chair McChesney discussed the opportunity to hold a meeting with the Planning Commission or a sub-committee meeting of less than a quorum of each Commission. Dates were identified for the museum: Mon., Feb. 11; Mon., Mar. 4 and/or Wednesday or Thursday, Feb. 27 or 28, all at 7 pm, at the Los Altos History Museum. A sub-committee of Commissioner Sandoval and Vice-Chair Foerster was appointed to plan the agenda with a sub-committee of the Planning Department and Commission.
3. Discussion of collecting Historic Preservation Ordinances from Saratoga, Los Gatos, Campbell, Santa Clara, San Jose and Sacramento; possibly, also Redwood City, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale. Commissioners took assignments to

contact various cities and collect their historic preservation ordinances before the February 25, '02 meeting.

Commissioner Reports:

1. Commissioner Sandoval suggested that as part of the 50th Anniversary year events perhaps the Town Crier could donate an ad commending owners of historic buildings, including the downtown buildings and/or the City Council could adopt a resolution commending community members who have done an outstanding job of preserving interesting buildings.
2. Vice-Chair Foerster - the Essay Contest packets were out-- it's up to the kids.
3. Commissioner Humphries suggested that a library display of books on historic preservation might be a good idea. She will investigate and report back.

HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT

The staff liaison reported that 8,500 regular visitors had visited the museum in the first nine months—1500 of the 8500 were adults on special tours outside public hours; 1000 were students outside public hours. In addition, the rental program served another 1,000 clients.

The museum's "areas of collecting emphasis" sheet was reviewed with the request to the Commissioners that they encourage donors to provide information with their gifts. Artifacts, materials sometimes appear on the porch—they are more usable with their documentation.

The "Anna Knapp Fitz" exhibit will have a "self-service Resource/Research" table for the Essay Contest. This led to a discussion about the museum's move to encourage research visitors to e-mail or call ahead and allow the Resource Volunteers to prepare for the request. Drop-in visitors are served; they are encouraged to plan ahead before their next use of the collections database or the archive. The museum's general brochure, web site, docents, and Sales Volunteers are all trained (increasingly) to ask research requests to schedule. Recently, the museum staff led a third annual tour for library staff to encourage library referrals to be scheduled.

OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE:

Notice about a free historic preservation workshop on February 22, '02 in downtown San Jose.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Foerster moved to adjourn, seconded by Chair McChesney. The Commission adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Historical Commission

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